

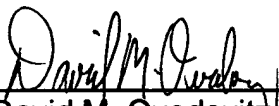
REMARKS

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to cancel claims 1-26 and add new claims 27-51. Note that the new claims are presented to delete the reference numerals in the original claims, and to remove the multiple dependencies in the original claims to thereby place such claims in condition for examination and reduce the required PTO filing fee.

Also, the abstract has been reviewed and revised in order to remove the reference numerals cited therein. Note the changes to the abstract are submitted in the form of a substitute abstract.

Respectfully submitted,

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ABSTRACT

An electronic component mounting method for placing electronic components successively to component
5 placing positions on a board ~~(12)~~ by component holding devices ~~(38a, 39)~~ equipped with a plurality of removable suction nozzles ~~(34)~~ which is operable to hold the electronic components. The method, as an example of its various manners, includes: in placing the electronic
10 components onto a multiple board composed of a plurality of sub-boards, applying a placement step to all the sub-boards, the placement step being a step of placing onto the board all of electronic components that are holdable by an identical suction nozzle; and after completion of the
15 placement step, changing the suction nozzle to another and moving to a next placement step, whereby electronic-component mounting for the individual sub-boards is carried
out. In another aspect, component array intervals (M) of component feed sections or intervals (N) of component
20 placing positions on the board are made coincident with array intervals (L) of the component holding devices.